

Chauvin gets 22 1/2 years in prison for George Floyd's death

By AMY FORLITI and STEVE KARNOWSKI

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Former Minneapolis police Officer Derek Chauvin was sentenced to 22 1/2 years in prison for the murder of George Floyd, whose dying gasps under Chauvin's knee led to the biggest outcry against racial injustice in the U.S. in generations.

The punishment — which fell short of the 30 years that prosecutors had requested — came after Chauvin broke his more than yearlong silence in court to offer condolences to the Floyd family and say he hopes more information coming out will eventually give them "some peace of mind."



In this image taken from video, former Minneapolis police Officer Derek Chauvin addresses the court as Hennepin County Judge Peter Cahill presides over Chauvin's sentencing, Friday, June 25, 2021, at the Hennepin County Courthouse in Minneapolis. Chauvin faces decades in prison for the May 2020 death of George Floyd.

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Chauvin gets 22 1/2 years in prison for George Floyd's death

Continued from Front

With good behavior, Chauvin, 45, could be paroled after serving two-thirds of his sentence, or about 15 years.

In imposing the punishment, Judge Peter Cahill went beyond the 12 1/2-year sentence prescribed under state guidelines, citing "your abuse of a position of trust and authority and also the particular cruelty" shown to Floyd.

Chauvin was immediately led back to prison. As with the verdicts in April, he showed little emotion when the judge pronounced the sentence. His eyes moved rapidly around the courtroom, his COVID-19 mask obscuring much of his face. The fired white officer was convicted of second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter for pressing his knee against Floyd's neck for up to 9 1/2 minutes as the 46-year-old Black man gasped that he couldn't breathe and went limp on May 25, 2020.

Bystander video of Floyd's arrest on suspicion of passing a counterfeit \$20 bill at a corner store prompted protests around the world and led to scattered violence in Minneapolis and beyond.

On Friday, Chauvin, who did not testify at his trial, removed his mask and turned toward the Floyd family, speaking only briefly because of what he called "some additional legal matters at hand" — an apparent reference to the federal civil rights trial he still faces.

"But very briefly, though, I do want to give my condolences to the Floyd family. There's going to be some other information in the



Reverend Al Sharpton and Attorney Ben Crump hold a prayer with members of George Floyd's family outside of the Hennepin County Government Center for the sentencing of former police officer Derek Chauvin on Friday, June 25, 2021 in Minneapolis.

future that would be of interest. And I hope things will give you some peace of mind," he said, without elaborating.

In asking that Chauvin be left off on probation, defense attorney Eric Nelson called Floyd's death "tragic" and said that Chauvin's "brain is littered with what-ifs" from that day: "What if I just did not agree to go in that day? What if things had gone differently? What if I never responded to that call? What if what if what if?"

Floyd's family members took the stand and expressed sorrow about his death. They asked for the maximum penalty.

"We don't want to see no more slaps on the wrist. We've been through that already," said a tearful Terrence Floyd, one of Floyd's brothers.

Floyd's nephew Brandon Williams said: "Our family is forever broken." And Floyd's 7-year-old daughter, Gianna, in a video

played in court, said that if she could say something to her father now, it would be: "I miss you and and I love you."

Prosecutor Matthew Frank asked the judge to exceed sentencing guidelines and give Chauvin 30 years in prison, saying "tortured is the right word" for what the officer did to Floyd.

"This is not a momentary gunshot, punch to the face. This is 9 1/2 minutes of cruelty to a man who was helpless and just begging for his life," Frank said.

Chauvin's mother, Carolyn Pawlenty, appeared in court to plead for mercy for son, saying his reputation has been unfairly reduced to that of "an aggressive, heartless and uncaring person" and a racist.

"I can tell you that is far from the truth," she told the judge. "I want this court to know that none of these things are true and that my son is a good man." She added: "Derek, I want you to know I have always be-

lieved in your innocence, and I will never waver from that."

"I will be here for you when you come home," she said. The concrete barricades, razor wire and National Guard patrols at the courthouse during Chauvin's three-week trial in the spring were gone Friday, reflecting an easing of tensions since the verdict in April.

Ahead of the sentencing, the judge agreed with prosecutors that there were aggravating circumstances that could justify a heavier punishment than the recommended 12 1/2 years — among them, that Chauvin treated Floyd with particular cruelty, abused his position of authority as a police officer and did it in front of children.

Before the sentencing, the judge denied Chauvin's request for a new trial. The defense had argued that the intense publicity tainted the jury pool and that the trial should have been

moved away from Minneapolis.

The judge also rejected a defense request for a hearing into possible juror misconduct. Nelson had accused a juror of not being candid during jury selection because he didn't mention his participation in a march last summer to honor the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Prosecutors countered the juror had been open about his views.

Philip Stinson, a criminal justice professor at Bowling Green State University, said 11 non-federal law officers, including Chauvin, have been convicted of murder for on-duty deaths since 2005. The penalties for the nine who were sentenced before Chauvin ranged from six years, nine months, to life behind bars, with the median being 15 years.

With Chauvin's sentencing, the Floyd family and Black America witnessed something of a rarity: In the small number of instances in which officers accused of brutality or other misconduct against Black people have gone to trial, the list of acquittals and mistrials is longer than the list of sentences after conviction.

In recent years, the acquittals have included officers tried in the deaths of Philando Castile in suburban Minneapolis and Terence Crutcher in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Two mistrials were declared over the death of Samuel Dubose in Cincinnati.

"That's why the world has watched this trial, because it is a rare occurrence," said Arizona-based civil rights attorney Benjamin Taylor, who has represented victims of police brutality. "Everybody knows that this doesn't happen every day." □

Associated Press

Infrastructure deal now in doubt; GOP senators 'blindsided'

By LISA MASCARO

AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden's bipartisan infrastructure deal was thrown in doubt Friday as Republican senators felt "blindsided" by his insistence that it must move in tandem with his bigger package, while the White House doubled down on the strategy and said it should have come as no surprise.

The rare accord over some \$1 trillion in investments faced new uncertainty barely 24 hours after Biden strode to the White House driveway, flanked by 10 senators from a bipartisan group, with all sides beaming over the compromise. Senators were described as "stunned," "floored" and "frustrated" after Biden publicly put the conditions on accepting their deal, according to two people familiar with the private conversations who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the reactions.

"I've been on the phone with the White House, my Democratic colleagues, my Republican colleagues, all darn day," said Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio, the lead Republican negotiator, in an interview Friday.

"My hope is that we'll still get this done. It's really good for America. Our infrastructure is in bad shape," he said. "It's about time to get it done." White House press secretary Jen Psaki, who was asked at her briefing about the GOP dismay, said senators should not have been surprised by the two-track strategy that Biden has publicly discussed on many occasions.

"That hasn't been a secret. He hasn't said it quietly. He hasn't even whispered it," she said.

Psaki said the president plans to stand by the commitment he made to the senators. "And he expects they'll do the same," she said. The path ahead is now uncertain.

Senators launched into calls Friday seeking answers from the White House after a tumultuous past month of



Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., does a cable news interview before the start of a two-week recess, at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, June 23, 2021.

Associated Press

on-again, off-again negotiations over Biden's \$4 trillion infrastructure proposals, his top legislative priority.

The Democrats' two-track strategy has been to consider both the bipartisan deal and their own more sweeping priorities side by side, a way to assure liberal lawmakers the smaller deal won't be the only one.

But Biden's vow to essentially veto or refuse to sign the bipartisan accord without the companion package being negotiated by Democrats, which is now eyed at nearly \$6 trillion in child care, Medicare and other investments, was an additional step that throws the process into doubt.

"No deal by extortion!" tweeted Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., on Friday.

Biden reached out Friday to the lead Democratic negotiator, Sen. Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona, and reiterated his strong support for the compromise agreement, according to a readout from the White House.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky set the tone for the

turn of events, signaling late Thursday where the party was headed.

He framed the argument in a floor speech and a subsequent Fox News interview, declaring that Biden's messaging from his two news conferences Thursday "makes your head spin."

McConnell has been highly skeptical of Biden's agenda, vowing his "100%" focus to defeat it. He is not part of the negotiating team of five Republican and five Democratic senators who have been laboring for months on a potential deal. Senators who were part of the bipartisan group were initially thrilled at striking the compromise. Many of them spoke about how it would be good not just for rebuilding the nation's roads and bridges, but also for showing the world that the United States government was functioning well. Only after senators tuned in later to Biden's second news conference, where he outlined the path ahead, did frustrations mount and frantic phone calls begin.

At the press conference,

Biden was asked what he meant by having the two packages move through Congress to his desk in "tandem."

"If they don't come, I'm not signing. Real simple," Biden said.

Senators from the group were never told of such an explicit linking of the two packages, the two people familiar with the discussions said.

It never came up in their talks with the White House advisers or with Biden himself during Thursday's meeting of the group of 10 key negotiators, they said.

Ten Republican senators would be needed to pass the bipartisan accord in the 50-50 Senate, where 60 votes are required to advance most bills.

While the senators in the bipartisan group are among some of the more independent-minded lawmakers, known for bucking their party's leadership, it appears McConnell's criticism of Biden's approach could peel away Republican support.

The White House insisted

that senators have been well aware of the two-bill strategy, which has been openly discussed for months. They all but dared the Republicans to argue their way out of supporting what appeared to be a popular compromise of shared priorities.

"That's a pretty absurd argument for them to make," Psaki said. "Good luck."

Democrats plan to push the broader package through using a special budget process that would allow passage of their own priorities on a simple majority vote of 51 senators, with Vice President Kamala Harris a tiebreaker.

Progressive lawmakers have pushed for the more robust investments and could withhold their votes, as well, on any bipartisan package unless they have guarantees the \$1 trillion effort won't be the end of the road.

Rep. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash., the chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, said Friday that the bipartisan infrastructure bill "simply isn't enough." □

Historic heat wave blasts Northwest as wildfire risks soar

By GILLIAN FLACCUS and
MANUEL VALDES
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — The Pacific Northwest sweltered Friday and braced for even hotter weather through the weekend as a historic heat wave hit Washington and Oregon, with temperatures in many areas expected to top out up to 30 degrees above normal.

The extreme and potentially dangerous heat was expected to break all-time records in cities and towns from eastern Washington state to Portland to southern Oregon as concerns mounted about wildfire risk in a region that's already experiencing a crippling and extended drought.

Seattle was expected to edge above 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) over the weekend and in Portland, Oregon, weather forecasters said the thermometer could soar to 108 F (42 C) by Sunday, breaking an all-time record of 107 F (42 C) set in 1981. Unusually hot weather was expected to extend into next week for much of the region.

Seattle has only hit 100 F three times in recorded history, the National Weather Service said, and there was a chance it could eclipse the record of 103 F (39 C)



Sarah O'Sell transports her new air conditioning unit to her nearby apartment on a dolly in Seattle on Friday, June 25, 2021.

on Monday.

"If you're keeping a written list of the records that will fall, you might need a few pages by early next week," NWS Seattle tweeted, as it announced that the city had already tied a record Friday for the highest morning-low temperature.

The extremely hot weather comes a week after a heat wave in the intermountain West broke records from Montana to Arizona.

The Northwest heat wave sent residents scrambling in a region accustomed to mild summers where many people don't have air conditioning. Stores sold out of portable air conditioners and fans, some hospitals canceled outdoor vaccination clinics, cities opened cooling centers, baseball teams canceled or moved up weekend games and utilities braced for possible power outages.

According to 2019 figures from the U.S. Census Bureau, Seattle has the lowest rate of air conditioned homes of any major American city. Only 44% of the homes in the metro area have air conditioning. In the Portland metro area that figure was 79%.

At a hardware store in Seattle, about a dozen people lined up before opening hoping to snag an air conditioning unit. A worker

opened the door at 8 a.m. with bad news: there were only three units.

One of the lucky buyers was Sarah O'Sell, who was worried for her cat amid predictions of triple digits.

"Unfortunately, we're starting to see this year after year," said O'Sell, who used a dolly to transport her new unit to her nearby apartment. "We're going to be like California and that's going to be desert down there. It's only going to get hotter."

The sweltering temperatures expected on the final weekend of the U.S. Olympic Track and Field trials in Eugene, Oregon, also prompted USA Track and Field to reschedule several weekend events to times earlier in the day to avoid the peak heat.

The Portland Pickles, the city's semi-professional baseball team, offered weekend tickets for \$1.11 — the possible high on Sunday — to keep people in the stands.

The extended "heat dome" was a taste of the future for the Pacific Northwest as climate change reshapes weather patterns worldwide, said Kristie Ebi, a professor at the University of Washington who studies global warming and its effects on public health. □

Associated Press

Trump's company could face criminal charges in New York City



In this Jan. 11, 2017, shows President-elect Donald Trump, left, his chief financial officer Allen Weisselberg, center, and his son Donald Trump Jr., right, attend a news conference in the lobby of Trump Tower in New York.

Associated Press

By BERNARD CONDON
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Manhattan prosecutors are

considering filing criminal charges soon against Donald Trump's company, stemming from a long-run-

ning investigation into the former president's business dealings. The New York Times, citing sources familiar with the matter, reported that charges could be filed against the Trump Organization as early as next week related to fringe benefits the company gave to top executives, such as use of apartments, cars and school tuition.

Trump Organization lawyer Ron Fischetti said he met virtually with prosecutors Thursday for around 1 1/2 hours to try and persuade them not to seek a criminal indictment against the company, but that the charges would not be unexpected. "The charges are absolutely outrageous

and unprecedented, if indeed the charges are filed. This is just to get back at Donald Trump," he told The Associated Press on Friday. "We're going to plead not guilty and we'll make a motion to dismiss."

The Manhattan district attorney's office declined to comment.

No charges have been filed thus far in the long-running probe. Prosecutors have been scrutinizing Trump's tax records, subpoenaing documents and interviewing witnesses, including Trump insiders and company executives.

Law enforcement officials familiar with the matter say the investigation has reached a critical point.

A grand jury was recently empaneled to weigh evidence and New York Attorney General Letitia James said she was assigning two of her lawyers to work with Vance on the criminal probe while she continues a civil investigation of Trump. Some of the scrutiny has been focused on longtime Trump Organization chief financial officer Allen Weisselberg.

Vance's investigation of Weisselberg, 73, stemmed in part from questions about his son's use of a Trump apartment at little or no cost, cars leased for the family and tuition payments made to a school attended by Weisselberg's grandchildren. □

WHO: Delta variant is 'most transmissible' identified so far

By MARIA CHENG
AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP) — The head of the World Health Organization said the COVID-19 delta variant, first seen in India, is "the most transmissible of the variants identified so far," and warned it is now spreading in at least 85 countries.

At a press briefing on Friday, WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the lack of vaccines in poor countries was exacerbating the delta variant's transmission. He described a recent meeting he attended of an advisory group established to allocate vaccines.

"They were disappointed because there is no vaccine to allocate," he said, criticizing rich countries for declining to immediately share shots with the developing world. "If there is no vaccine, what do you share?" Tedros said the global community was failing and risked repeating the mistakes made during the AIDS crisis decades ago and during the 2009 swine flu pandemic — when vaccines only arrived in poor countries after the outbreak ended.

"It took 10 years (for antiretrovirals) to reach the low income countries after



In this Monday, May 24, 2021 file photo, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO), speaks during a bilateral meeting with Swiss Interior and Health Minister Alain Berset before signing a BioHub Initiative with a global Covid-19 Pathogen repository in Spiez laboratory on the sideline of the opening of the 74th World Health Assembly, WHA, at the WHO headquarters, in Geneva, Switzerland.

(HIV) was already rampant in high income countries," he said. "Do we want to repeat the same thing?"

COVAX, the U.N.-backed effort aiming to distribute vaccines to poor countries, has missed several targets to share COVID-19 shots, and its biggest supplier is not expected to export any vaccines until the end of the year. The hundreds of millions of doses promised by countries including

Britain, the U.S. and others are not likely to arrive anytime soon. "We have through COVAX this month zero doses of AstraZeneca vaccine, zero doses of Pfizer vaccine, zero doses of (Johnson and Johnson) vaccine," acknowledged Dr. Bruce Aylward, a senior adviser to the WHO chief. "Every single one of our suppliers is unable to supply during this period because others are making de-

mands on those products, others who are vaccinating very young populations that are not at risk."

As border restrictions and other public health measures are loosened across Europe, the U.S. and in other countries with high vaccination rates, WHO officials warned that this could lead to a resurgence of disease.

"The global situation is incredibly fragile," said Maria

Van Kerkhove, the WHO's technical lead on COVID-19. Van Kerkhove said that while transmission is dropping in Europe, there are numerous events — from large sporting events to backyard barbecues — that all have consequences for disease spread.

"The delta variant, the virus, will continue to evolve," Van Kerkhove said. "Right now our public health and social measures work, our vaccines work, our diagnostics work, our therapeutics work. But there may be a time where this virus evolves and these countermeasures don't."

Earlier this month, British officials announced that they would allow 60,000 fans to attend the semi-finals and finals of the European football championships at London's Wembley stadium — to the dismay of some public health experts.

Lawrence Young, a virologist at the University of Warwick, called it "worrying and confusing," saying there was limited data to prove its safety, especially given the prevalence of the more infectious delta variant. "(The) inevitable opportunities for the virus to spread in enclosed spaces like lavatories is a recipe for disaster." □

Associated Press

China touts role in U.N. peacekeeping, Middle East peace

BEIJING (AP) — Foreign Minister Wang Yi said China remains deeply committed to United Nations peacekeeping efforts, where more than 2,400 Chinese troops and police are serving — a contribution that underscores China's increasing prominence in the world body.

Speaking Friday at a symposium to mark the 50th anniversary of China's entry into the U.N., Wang Yi said China had made good on its pledge to establish a stand-by peacekeeping force of 8,000 troops and 300 police officers ready to be deployed for U.N. missions "at any time when needed safeguard peace."

Its influence enables China

to rally wide support among developing nations, but the U.S. and other Western democracies are increasingly wary about its role, particularly in squelching criticism of its human rights record and controlling the World Health Organization's efforts to investigate the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chinese officials loyal to the ruling Communist Party serve in numerous influential roles in the U.N., and China sends more peacekeepers into the field than any other permanent Security Council member and provides the second-largest amount of funding for such operations after the U.S.

Also, Chinese diplomats routinely cite the U.N. char-

ter and what it calls the accepted norms of international relations in rejecting criticisms of its detention of Muslim minorities and crackdown on free speech democracy in Hong Kong. The People's Republic of China was accepted into the world body on June 25, 1971, with the backing of developing nations and the Soviet bloc, replacing the Nationalist government of Chiang Kai-shek that had fled to the island of Taiwan amid civil war in 1949. Chiang's Republic of China, now better known simply as Taiwan, had been among the founders of the U.N. and a permanent member of the Security Council, but has since been excluded by it and



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, center, applauds during a symposium to mark the 50th anniversary of the People's Republic of China's entry into the U.N. at the Foreign Ministry in Beijing on Friday, June 25, 2021.

Associated Press

related groups such as the World Health Organization. Wang said China has participated in 29 former and ongoing peacekeeping

operations, contributing more than 50,000 personnel, 24 of whom have died while in deployment. □

Afghans who worked as interpreters for US troops hold rally

By KATHY GANNON

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) —

A small group of Afghans who worked as interpreters for the U.S. military rallied on Friday near the American Embassy in Kabul, protesting the red tape that stands in the way of their leaving Afghanistan.

The protest comes amid a push to get Afghan interpreters and others who helped the U.S. out of the country as American and NATO troops complete their pullout. The protesters in Kabul said they are victims of a bureaucratic nightmare as they try to escape abroad.

Many — even those who have not been directly threatened — say they fear for their lives, despite assurances from the Taliban they would not be targeted.

The former interpreters said the situation is increasingly urgent. Many had their special immigration visas approved, only to see them later denied, allegedly because of minor discrepancies in their statements from one interview to another. Others had been denied outright or were approved but were still waiting for the visas. One of the men, Omid Mahmoodi, said he was not moved by Presi-



Former Afghan interpreters hold placards during a demonstrations against the US government, in front of the US Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, Friday, June 25, 2021. 4

Associated Press

dent Joe Biden's promise on Thursday that Afghans who had helped the U.S. military during the last nearly 20 years would not be left behind. "We think he is lying," said Mahmoodi, who worked as a translator in 2018. "Time is running out." Lately, it's become evident that the deadline for the last of the 2,500-3,500 U.S. troops and 7,000 allied NATO soldiers to leave Afghanistan has been accelerated. Biden had said the last of the troops would be

home no later than Sept. 11 but it has become increasingly clear that the last soldiers would be gone from Afghanistan as early as next month.

Hezat Shah, who said he worked as an interpreter in southern Helmand province, a Taliban stronghold, said he risked his life each time he stepped into an armored vehicle with the Americans.

He said he does not trust a Taliban statement from last month that they would not

seek revenge against those who worked with the Americans or helped Western interests.

"They are not to be trusted ... they are lying," said Shah. Biden faces strong criticism from some Republicans for pulling out of Afghanistan, even though President Donald Trump made the 2020 deal with the Taliban to withdraw all U.S. forces by May 2021.

The Taliban are today stronger than they have ever been since the 2001 inva-

sion to topple their regime for harboring Osama bin Laden, the al-Qaida chief, and have control over roughly half of Afghanistan, mostly rural areas. There is deep insecurity and fear of violence from the Taliban and the many heavily armed U.S.-allied warlords once the U.S. withdraws. Increasing lawlessness and a recent move to resurrect militias to fight a Taliban surge has further fired fears of a violent future for Afghanistan.

Later on Friday, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah, chair of the High Council for National Reconciliation, are meeting with Biden at the White House.

As past experience not just from Afghanistan but also Iraq has shown, the vetting process to qualify for a special immigration visa could sometimes take years, with multiple interviews — and the smallest contradiction from one interview to the next would be enough to disqualify an applicant. Steve Miska, author of Baghdad Underground Railroad, which tells of the challenges faced by interpreters and their struggles to find a new life in America, said the "bureaucracy is a mess." □

Lebanon reduces fuel subsidies amid gasoline shortages



Vehicles wait in long queues for gasoline in Beirut, Lebanon, Friday, June 25, 2021.

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon's caretaker prime minister on Friday granted his approval for financing fuel imports at a rate higher

than the official exchange rate, effectively reducing critical fuel subsidies amid worsening gasoline shortages.

The decision is likely to sharply increase the price of gasoline - but is expected to temporarily ease the shortage crisis in the country. Lebanon is going through an unprecedented economic and financial collapse coupled with a dangerous political crisis. The developments pose the gravest threat to the small country's stability since the end of its civil war three decades ago. The currency has lost more than 90% of its value since October 2019, trading at a record low of 16,450 Lebanese pounds to the dollar on the black market on Friday. The official exchange rate remains 1,507 Lebanese pounds to the U.S.

dollar. The crisis, rooted in decades of corruption and mismanagement, has worsened in recent weeks with the central bank cutting back on financing imports at subsidized dollars. Foreign currency reserves have dropped dangerously low, from \$30 billion at the start of the crisis in late 2019, to nearly \$15 billion currently. That has prompted merchants to either raise prices or stop imports.

In the past weeks, fist fights and shootings have broken out at petrol stations as frustrated citizens lined up for hours to fill up their tanks. Electricity cuts last for much of the day, and

private generators have had to turn off for several hours to ration fuel.

The decree signed by caretaker Prime Minister Hassan Diab Friday allows the financing of fuel imports at an exchange rate price of 3,900 Lebanese pounds instead of the official peg of 1,500 pounds. While that may temporarily ease the fuel shortages by allowing supplies to flow in again, the move effectively raises the price of gasoline and is sure to send prices of consumer goods further skyrocketing.

In a statement, Diab said he made the decision "guided by his sense of national responsibility." □

In Mexico, colonial ruins shattered by truck, rains

MEXICO CITY (AP) — It hasn't been a good week for Mexico's colonial-era architecture.

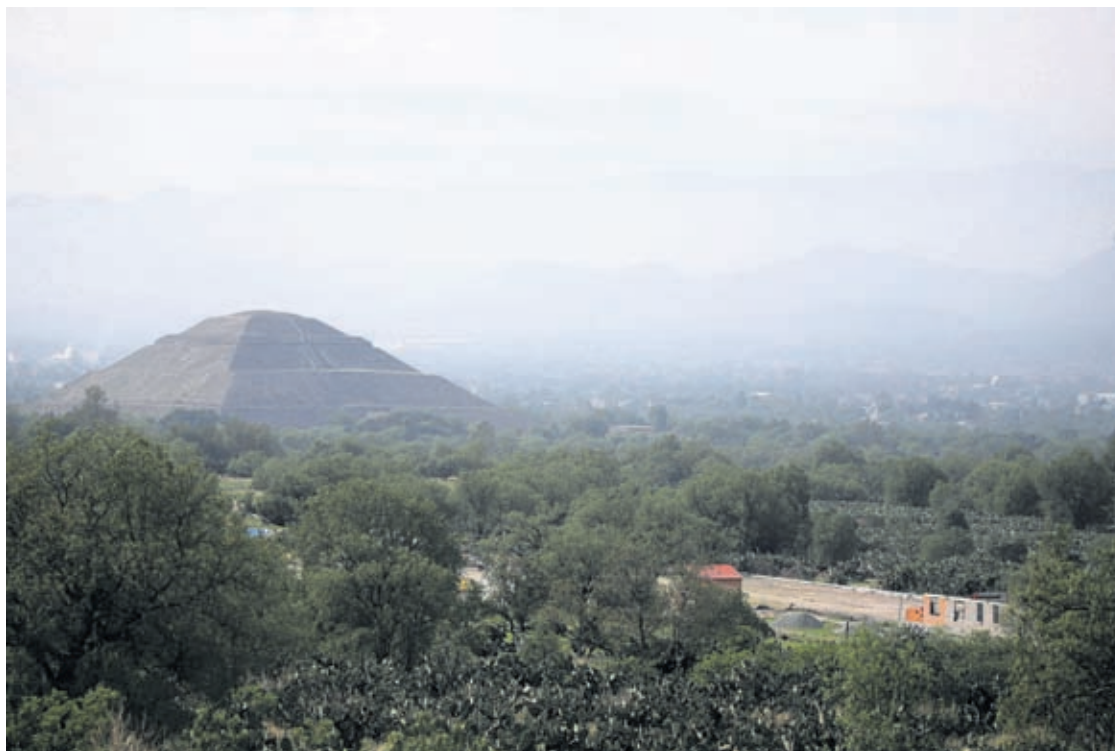
The government said Thursday that a truck driver with an over-sized load had bashed through part of an archway of a centuries-old colonial aqueduct south of Mexico City.

And last Friday, heavy rains caused part of the facade of a centuries-old church to collapse in the Yucatan peninsula.

All of that comes three weeks after Mexico had to send in the National Guard and police to finally stop months of private construction work that probably trashed pre-Hispanic archaeological sites in Teotihuacán.

The incident late Wednesday happened when a flat-bed truck carrying what appeared to be several giant sections of concrete storm drain tried to fit under the arches of a colonial-era aqueduct in the town of Yautepec, south of Mexico City.

The arches of San Carlos, as the stretch of aqueduct are known, stretch across a section of a heavily-used road, and traffic is supposed to slow down, check



This Wednesday, May 26, 2021 image shows a private construction project on the outskirts of the Teotihuacán archaeological site, north of Mexico City.

the clearance and go under them.

That didn't happen Wednesday, and the drain pipe sections hit one part of the archway, sending part the massive stone and brick structure tumbling to the ground.

The aqueduct was built during the colonial era to bring water to sugar mills that flourished there during the 1600s and 1700s.

On Friday, the National In-

stitute of Anthropology and History reported that part of the facade of a colonial stone church on the Yucatan peninsula had partly collapsed after four days of heavy rain.

The chapel of the Baby Jesus in the Maya town of Tihosuco, west of the coastal resort of Tulum, had been partially roofless for years; it was damaged during fighting in the last Maya insurrection, known as the War

of the Castes, between 1847 and 1901.

Built starting in the 1500s, the church wasn't finished in its present form until 1839. Tihosuco was an important Mayan town, and was the scene of fighting between Mayas angered by excessive taxation and exploitation, and government

troops that brutally put down the rebellion.

Like most modern societies, Mexico has a hard time co-existing with its wealth of historical architecture.

On May 31, Mexico sent in 250 National Guard troops and 60 police officers to seize land next to the pre-Hispanic ruins of Teotihuacán where authorities have said bulldozers were destroying outlying parts of the archeological site.

Mexican archaeological officials had been trying since March to halt the private construction project, but work continued on what local media says were plans to build some sort of amusement park.

The Culture Department estimated at least 25 ancient structures on the site were threatened, and said it has filed a criminal complaint against those responsible.

Apparently, owners of farm plots are trying to turn the land into a recreation area. The area is just outside and across a road from the site's famous boulevard and pyramid complex. □

Associated Press

Haiti awaits first vaccines amid delays, renewed promises

By DÁNICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Officials offered new promises Thursday that Haiti would soon receive its first vaccine as the country of more than 11 million people reels from a spike in coronavirus cases and COVID-19 deaths that have saturated hospitals.

Speaking during an online meeting, Margherita Ghiselli with the Pan American Health Organization said vaccinations in Haiti would start "very soon," though she did not say exactly when the doses would arrive.

Robert Barrais, with Haiti's Ministry of Public Health, said during the meet-



In this June 5, 2021, file photo, a hospital employee wearing protective gear transports oxygen tanks in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Associated Press

ing that hospitalizations have nearly doubled and that the country is still in the pandemic's critical phase. Officials have reported more than 17,900 confirmed coronavirus in-

fections and 400 deaths from COVID-19, although experts say they believe those numbers are severely underreported given the lack of widespread testing. □



Taste limitless possibilities at Infini, where Chef Urvin Croes and his team explores without boundaries and steps with both feet outside of the box to create his most sensational dishes yet. This meticulously designed restaurant located inside Blue Residences on scenic Eagle Beach is a chef's table concept with limited seating where diners are able to interact with the staff and other guests alike throughout the evening.

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FORTUNE SPOTLIGHTS BUCUTI & TARA, EWALD BIEMANS AS SUSTAINABILITY SUCCESS RESOURCE

Aruba enjoys recognition and praise in top global media outlet

EAGLE BEACH, Aruba – June 24, 2021 – This week, globally recognized business media outlet, Fortune, featured its climate change article series, The Path to Zero, on Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort. The international media outlet held an extensive interview with Owner/CEO Ewald Biemans where writer Kristin Majcher sought his business intelligence in meticulously creating a responsible travel experience.

The article, "How eco-travelers are fueling hotel industry's sustainability drive" reveals Biemans' insights into the race-against-the-clock to curb global climate change particularly in the highly vulnerable Caribbean. In it, he also shares how businesses can be financially successful simultaneously while of course offering a memorable vacation experience for guests.

Fortune has 13.9M unique monthly visitors worldwide to its website. It is the No. 1 business media outlet referenced by corporate-level ex-

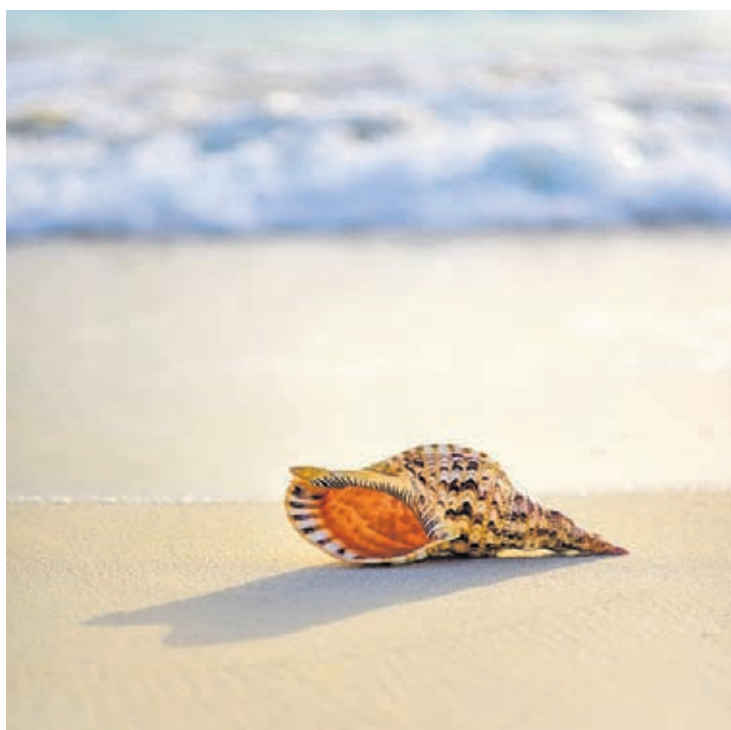


ecutives and business owners such as Biemans. Additionally, it publishes ranked lists including the famous Fortune 500 companies list of the largest United States corporations

by total revenue. In the human resources field, for example, it publishes a list of the Best Companies to Work For among many other lists and resources widely used.☐

Prohibited by law:

Tourist leaving the island with seashells, white sand and corals



ORANJESTAD — For the last months the customs department at the airport intercepted many tourists leaving the island with seashells, white sand and corals as souvenirs.

Conform the international treaty of CITES and our local law which protects our Flora & Fauna, it is completely prohibited to take any seashell, sand and coral outside of Aruba, this in order to protect our environment. The high amount of seashell, sand and corals confiscated is very strange and it is suspected that our own locals are the once selling these to the tourists,

which is unacceptable. Upon confiscation at the airport the tourist also faces a fine that they have to pay before leaving. This is surely not a pleasant experience for the tourist. This also leads to a negative reaction which can put our tourism in a negative light. Let's all give nature the respect it deserves by protecting our environment. Stop collecting seashells, white sand and corals from our shores and stop selling these to our tourist. We want our future generations and visitors to enjoy the beauty of our beaches, shells and corals. Let's all protect what is ours!☐

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Origin of Papiamentu- Aruba's native language

ORANJESTAD — Papiamentu, Creole language of ABC (Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao) is from the Cape Verdean Creole family (Cape Verdean language) and was taken to the Caribbean in the 9th century by the Cape Verdeans of that time (linings and slaves), experts in cane culture and sugar production, and who were hired by Jewish entrepreneurs who went to invest in this business in the Caribbean. Cape Verdeans taught this pre-industrial revolution technology (planting cane and producing sugar, which they had learned from Madeirans) to slaves from other African regions, and did so in their language, Cape Verde Creole (Cape Verdean language), hence the language implanted in Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao.

Unlike many interesting stories, wanting to link Papiamentu directly to Portuguese, Galician or Castilian (see Papiamentu, on Wikipedia - Portuguese version and Spanish version, where the Portuguese and Spanish, each claim the direct origin of Papiamentu), in fact, this is not true. Papiamentu is not direct from Portuguese, Galician or Castilian, it is from the Cape Verde Creole family (Cape Verdean language). You can see this best when it's saying obscene words and offending someone, precisely as they say today in both ABC and Cape Verde



islands. The obscene words kept the original, had no lexical influence either from Castilian or Dutch. Also the Papi Cristang of Malacca, the Patuá of Macau, and several creoles from the east (from Daman, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Philippines, Indonesia) and Africa (Casamança, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, these last two releases to the English), all originated in the Creole of Cabo Verde (Cape Verdean language), which was the French language spoken in Portuguese feitories on the coast of Africa (from Senegal to Sierra Leone), and which was taken east by the thousands of cable - Verdeans (linings and slaves, already Christianized and speaking Creole) who served as sailors and "slaves of arms" in Portuguese caravels, demanding the east. I don't know why the official history of Portugal usually omits this fact, which is in the chronicles of the quinrentist chroniclers, but which we never saw in the history of Portugal that we study from primary education to

higher education. However, it has always been tried to deceive us, in colonial time, that we were descendants of Viriato (Iberian hero in the fight against the Romans) and the pastors of the Hermini Mountains, but not much speaking of our black-African ancestry. We Cape Verdeans understand each other very well with these Antillans and Easterns, whose language is from the same Creole family of Cape Verde (Cape Verdean language), speaking their Creole and we ours. Therefore, Papiamentu, Papi Cristang, Patuá Macaense and the creoles, said of Portuguese origin, Daman, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, some locations in the Philippines and some places in Indonesia, are creoles of the language family Cape Verde Creole (Cape Verdean language) and indirectly the Galaico-Duriense or Galaico-Portuguese, a language that the people spoke in Portugal in the 6th and 7th century. □

Anonymous
Source: Dushi Aruba

Birds of Aruba

ORANJESTAD — On May 11th, 2010, the Aruba Birdlife Conservation was founded with the aim of protecting the biodiversity in general and birds in and around Aruba in particular.

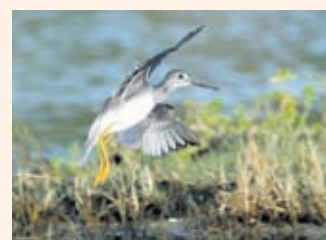
Among other things, the foundation will focus on increasing the survival chances of species of wild birds by promoting their preservation and conservation. The foundation publishes the most beautiful pictures of local birds on their social media that show us the beauty of Aruba's birds and nature in general. Aruba Today gives you a little peek with the following pictures and descriptions from the foundations Facebook page.

The Great Egret



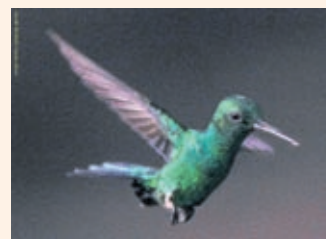
Serenity in Aruba's National Park, a Great Egret flying in peace. When it is peaceful and quite, beautiful things start happening in nature.

Canadian in the house



The breeding season is over and it's getting pretty cold in North America. Shore birds have started moving southwards as early as July. This wetland beauty wants to keep its toes warm. Our Canadian friends know exactly where they can do so best. A Greater Yellowlegs rediscovering Aruba's Bubali Wetlands.

Cabochon



In its living form of so much more value than any gemstone. Aruba's smallest and most master of flight. A top pollinator. A hovering Blenchi inspecting the human who just entered his territory.

English: Blue-tailed Emerald (male) Dutch: Blauwstaartsmaragdkolibrie (mannetje).

Aruba's to enjoy. Aruba's to protect. □

Asi es mi Peru launches quality Food Truck at Eagle Beach

EAGLE BEACH — While operating two successful restaurants at Paradise Beach Villas- Eagle Beach, The Kitchen Table (TKT) and Asi es mi Peru (AEMP) who are both under one roof, COVID-19 interrupted operations of both restaurants and each and every restaurant in Aruba in March this year. TKT was closed temporarily, AEMP kept operating for take out in the weekends, operating lunch and dinner again in the weekends until fully operational in July.

It became clear says owner Roxanna Salinas, "that we would not be able to maintain all of the staff with hotel occupancies of around twenty percent once the tourists started returning slowly in August." But we saw it as an obligation to maintain all of our staff as one family!

And that's when the idea of extending our services with a food truck was born so we could make sure to keep all of our staff who otherwise would be out of a job. A perfect food truck with all whistles and bells appeared on the horizon and with permits filed the food truck made her appearance at Eagle Beach at the end of September. Just, 100 yards from the restaurant at the corner of the T-crossing between Paradise Beach Villas and La Cabana. Convenient to offer a large scale of products!

Best ceviche and grilled chicken on the island

Our now famous ceviche, insiders say the best ceviche on the island, is a best seller and our roasted chicken (pollo a la brasa) are favor-



ite items but hotdogs, hamburgers, salads, soups and wraps, empanadas and pastequis are just a few of the items offered. Actually, there are no restrictions as the entire Asi es mi Peru menu is available converted from dollars to florins. While most food trucks in Aruba operate in the evening and night the AEMP Food Truck operates from 11.00 am – 9 pm. Every day with the exception of Monday, orders can be called in at +297 592-5699 and picked up at the food truck.

Mi Retiro (My Retirement)

"When I married Roxanna says co-operator Jan van Nes, I knew that the word retirement was not in her vocabulary. Now, a retired hotelier for two years, I know that somewhere down the road there will always be something to do, even when our two restaurants would be operated by a younger generation. With this perspective the Food Truck could be called "Mi Retiro (My Retirement)."

For reservations for The Kitchen Table (www.thekitchenable-inaruba.com) , Asi es mi Peru (www.asiesperuenaruba.com) and take-out orders, feel free to call Roxanna at +297 592-5699. We love to welcome you!☐

1st cruise ship to sail from U.S. as industry seeks comeback

By **ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON**
Associated Press

MIAMI (AP)—The first cruise ship to board passengers at a U.S. port in 15 months is set to sail Saturday from the industry's South Florida hub in a symbolic stride toward normalcy that will be watched closely by health experts as vaccines curb the coronavirus' spread in the country.

Industry officials hope the Celebrity Edge's voyage serves as a bookend for people for whom the gravity of the pandemic first hit home in the alarming reports last year of deadly outbreaks on crowded ships, with guests quarantined for weeks, vessels begging to dock and sickened passengers carried away on stretchers at ports.

"We are excited to be part of that," said Russ Schwartz, a Florida school principal who is honeymooning on the ship and is confident it will be smooth sailing. "Things have changed drastically. Back then we really didn't know much about the virus. Cruises at that point weren't prepared."

Celebrity Cruises, one of Royal Caribbean Cruises' brands, says at least 95% of those boarding the Celebrity Edge have been vaccinated against the coronavirus in line with health requirements from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the ship will run at a reduced capacity.



The Celebrity Edge cruise ship is docked at Port Everglades, Tuesday, June 22, 2021, in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Associated Press

It will be a luxurious voyage aboard a boat that was unveiled in December 2018 featuring a giant spa and multi-floor suites. The \$1 billion vessel will be led by Capt. Kate McCue, who in 2015 became the first American woman to captain a cruise ship and has drawn a following of more than 1 million on TikTok and 250,000 on Instagram.

The stakes are high for cruise lines as they emerge from a CDC-imposed shutdown that lasted 15 months. During that period the three industry giants — Carnival, Norwegian and Royal Caribbean — have

had to raise more than \$40 billion in financing just to stay afloat without any revenue.

Collectively they lost \$20 billion last year and another \$4.5 billion in the first quarter of 2021, according to Securities and Exchange Commission filings.

"The cruise lines are getting up off their knees after getting crippled by COVID-19," said Michael Winkleman, a maritime attorney. "There's just too much money at stake for the cruise lines not to get it right."

To comply with both the CDC's 95% vaccination requirement and a new Flor-

ida law banning businesses from requiring customers to show proof of vaccination, Celebrity Cruises is simply asking guests if they would like to share their status, spokeswoman Susan Lomax said.

Those who don't voluntarily show proof of vaccination will be treated as unvaccinated and be subjected to additional protocols such as wearing face masks and being restricted to designated seating areas in common areas like dining rooms, casinos and theaters.

Last year the CDC castigated the cruise industry

for keeping bars, gyms and self-service buffets open and continuing to allow crew members to gather even as the pandemic raged.

Beginning in March 2020, data showed 3,689 confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19 on cruise ships in U.S. waters, and at least 41 deaths. The CDC says it spent 38,000 person-hours handling just the cruise response to COVID-19, including contact tracing for 11,000 passengers.

Medical evacuation and logistical efforts for passengers disembarking ships such as the Zaandam in Fort Lauderdale and the Grand Princess in Oakland, California, also diverted resources from local agencies that were trying to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Dozens of passengers have since filed lawsuits saying companies failed to protect them and warn them about the virus, especially after an outbreak on Carnival's Diamond Princess off the coast of Japan with more than 700 confirmed cases and nine deaths.

The prolonged shutdown has also been challenged in court. In April, Florida sued the federal government to demand cruise ships be allowed to start sailing, arguing the ban disproportionately harms the state where the industry generates billions each year for the economy. □

Google delays phase out of tracking tech by nearly 2 years

By **KELVIN CHAN**
AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — Google will delay by nearly two years the phase out of Chrome web browser technology that tracks users for ad purposes, saying that it needs more time to develop a replacement system. The tech giant on Thursday moved its deadline to remove so-called third-party cookies to late 2023 rather than January 2022 as was initially planned.

"We need to move at a responsible pace, allow-

ing sufficient time for public discussion on the right solutions and for publishers and the advertising industry to migrate their services," Vinay Goel, the director of privacy engineering for Chrome, said in a blog post. Third-party cookies are snippets of code that log user info and are used by advertisers to more effectively target their campaigns, thereby helping fund free online content such as newspapers and blogs. However, they've also been a longstanding

source of privacy concerns because they can be employed to track users across the internet.

Google is retiring third-party cookies as it overhauls Chrome to tighten privacy, but the proposals have shaken up the online advertising industry, raising fears that replacement technology will leave even less room for online ad rivals. European Union and British regulators have been investigating Google's plans, known as Privacy Sandbox.



In this Monday, Nov. 5, 2018 file photo, a woman walks past the logo for Google at the China International Import Expo in Shanghai.

Associated Press

To resolve the U.K. probe, the company has offered the country's competition watchdog a role overseeing the cookie phaseout. It has also promised not to discriminate against rival

digital advertising companies when designing the new technology and pledged to give the U.K. competition watchdog 60 days notice before removing third-party cookies. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 42 Cook's
1 Chocolate mushroom
substitute

DOWN
6 Splinter groups
11 Kitchen come-on
12 Benefit peak
13 Alma —

14 River part
15 Strut
17 Mover's truck
18 Put away
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24 Like Loki
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27 Joplin tune
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38 Old gold coin
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40 Be penitent
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Yesterday's answer

10 Informal talk
16 Actor Rupert
20 1928 Olympics host
21 Female crime
24 Pester rabbit
25 Right away
26 Deceived sections
27 Ill will
28 Mysterious
29 Fairy tale
30 White-sister
36 "Stand" band
37 Hosp.

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39						40			
41						42			

6-26

A X Y D L B A X R
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-26

CRYPTOQUOTE

S U G R J D Z H O U D Q G P H P G S

H K W Q H , P F D X O U G

W T K C D J K Q D H . — U G R D U P F .

H V F T J J D U

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I LOVE SPRING ANYWHERE. BUT IF I COULD CHOOSE I WOULD ALWAYS GREET IT IN A GARDEN. — RUTH STOUT

Amid clamor to increase prescribed burns, obstacles await



In this Oct. 7, 2010, file photo, U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife's Rachel York hands a torch to Grande Ronde Tribe firefighter Jim Pinder while firefighter Aaron Williamson lights native grasses behind the pair near Harrisburg, Ore.

Associated Press

By ANDREW SELSKY

Associated Press

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — In the 1950s, when University of California forestry professor Harold Biswell experimented with prescribed burns in the state's pine forests, many people thought he was nuts.

"Harry the Torch," "Burn-Em-Up Biswell" and "Doctor Burnwell" were some of his nicknames from critics, who included federal and state foresters and timber groups.

Six decades after Biswell preached an unpopular message to those who advocated full-on fire suppression, he is seen not as crazy but someone whose ideas could save the U.S. West's forests and ease wildfire dangers.

Millions of acres have become overgrown, prone to wildfires that have devastated towns, triggered massive evacuations and blanketed the West Coast in thick smoke.

Today, officials want to sharply increase prescribed fires — those set intentionally and under carefully controlled conditions to clear underbrush, pine needle beds and other surface fuels.

Last month, four Democratic U.S. senators — Ron Wyden of Oregon, Joe Manchin of West Virginia, Maria Cantwell of Washington and Dianne Feinstein of California — introduced legislation that requires federal land managers to significantly increase the number and size of prescribed fires on federal lands. Wyden said it would

more than double funding for prescribed burns.

"We would have a technically skilled prescribed fire workforce," Wyden said in a phone interview. "We would streamline the smoke regulations in winter months."

Wyden and the Biden administration are also seeking creation of a 21st century Civilian Conservation Corps, to provide more boots on the ground to work on forest health.

In New Mexico, Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham signed legislation on March 18 that will clear the way for more prescribed fires by establishing liability standards for landowners who conduct them and creating a certification program. In Oregon, a bill from state Sen. Jeff Golden would enact rules for prescribed fires and a certified burn manager program. He envisions Oregon having as many as hundreds of trained managers to supervise prescribed fires.

"I don't see that we have any option other than to increase the prescribed burns," said Golden, who is from the Rogue Valley, where wildfires tore into two towns last year. "We've got, across the Western U.S., a buildup of decades of fuels, and it's going to burn."

"So do you want to burn in a planned, strategic way that has an element of control to it, or do you want it to burn in megafires, with all the costs — human, animal, environmental costs — that that entails?"

It took years for forest man-

agers to come around to accept and then finally embrace prescribed burning. In the first half of the 20th century, fire was seen as the enemy, with federal and state forest managers believing prescribed burning damaged the environment, particularly timber, a commercial resource. But in the late 1960s and 1970s, federal forest managers began employing prescribed burns.

Yet scaling up the practice has been slow. From 1995 through 2000, an average of 1.4 million federal acres (566,560 hectares) were treated with prescribed fire each year, far short of the 70 million acres (28 million hectares) that in 2001 were in critical need of fuel reduction to avoid high-severity wildfires, biologist David Carle said in his 2002 book "Burning Questions: America's Fight with Nature's Fire." Another 141 million acres (57 million hectares) also needed treatment.

Several cold realities are stacked against the latest plans: The periods between wildfire seasons when prescribed burning can happen safely are shrinking; some forests are too overgrown to ignite without thinning; and prescribed fires can shroud nearby towns.

Furthermore, many landowners are reluctant to use prescribed fire because of fears of getting hit with steep costs.

Some states can hold burners liable for any property damage caused by an escaped prescribed fire. Others use so-called simple negligence standards, which require the burner to practice reasonable care. A plaintiff would need to prove negligence for the burner to be responsible for damages and firefighting suppression costs. Gross negligence standards make it harder to hold people accountable, requiring plaintiffs to show burners acted with reckless disregard if fires get out of control. □

Microsoft debuts Windows 11, first major update in 6 years

By **MATT O'BRIEN**
AP Technology Writer

Microsoft has unveiled the next generation of its Windows software, called Windows 11, that has sleeker visual features and is more open to third-party apps. The newest version of Microsoft's flagship operating system announced Thursday will be a successor to today's Windows 10, which the company introduced in 2015.

In a challenge to rival Apple, the company also announced that it won't force app developers to pay fees to Microsoft for using its app store; and that Google's popular Android apps will run on its new system.

Windows 11 is expected to become available later this year on new computers and other devices and as a free update for those with Windows 10. It includes a host of cosmetic upgrades, such as a new Start button, a revamped task bar and sounds, and under-the-hood features designed to boost speed and efficiency.

While opening more doors to third-party developers, it also further entrenches Microsoft's workplace chatting tool Teams by making it easier to contact people when starting up.

Forrester analyst J.P. Gownder said the aesthetic, user-friendly improvements reflect CEO Satya Nadella's promise to build products that people will "love," not tolerate, though Gownder questioned whether Windows 11 is truly a new generation of software.

The fact that it is built on the same core code base as Windows 10 might actually be a good thing, he added, because it could

avoid the technical glitches that plagued the release of Windows Vista in 2007.

Microsoft's virtual announcement event was itself affected by technical difficulties Thursday, forcing the company to recommend some viewers watch it on Twitter instead.

When it launched Windows 10 six years ago, Microsoft was hoping that the new operating system would help it rebuild loyalty among users who were increasingly relying on tablets, smartphones and other devices.

Windows has been a PC workhorse for decades. Its first version launched in 1985, offering computer novices a "graphical user interface" so they could click on icons and menus with a mouse button rather than simply type commands into a blank screen. It's been a core part of Microsoft's business ever since, though its influence waned as PC sales declined with the rise of smartphones.

Microsoft said it would allow developers to bypass the payments system in its app store if they have their own commerce engine.

That could create problems for Apple, which has faced government scrutiny over its app store and a legal battle from Epic, the maker of the popular Fortnite game, which contends Apple has been gouging



This May 6, 2021 photo shows a sign for Microsoft offices in New York.

Associated Press

app makers by charging commissions ranging from 15% to 30% for in-app transactions because it forbids other options on its iPhone, iPad and iPod.

"I believe this will be problematic for Apple in its antitrust dealings," said tech analyst Patrick Moorhead. "Apple charging 30% in its store and Microsoft charging 0% and 15% if you use its commerce engine. Global antitrust units are currently scrutinizing Apple on this very point."

Moorhead said the easier access to third-party apps, combined with the better user interface promised with Windows 11, could help Microsoft get a stronger hold in the premium tablet market, now dominated by the iPad. □



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Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
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Conan O'Brien ends TBS late-night show with snark, gratitude

By LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) —

Conan O'Brien stayed true to form as he wrapped his TBS show "Conan" after nearly 11 years, bouncing between self-deprecating and smart-aleck humor before allowing himself a touch of sentiment.

"Try to do what you love with people you love, and if you can manage that, it's the definition of heaven on Earth," he said, marking the end of his third late-night show over 28 years. It's a tenure second only to Johnny Carson's 30 years on "Tonight."

O'Brien's next venture is a weekly variety series for HBO Max, set to arrive in 2022 with an as-yet unannounced format.

The hour-long "Conan" finale Thursday was largely a trip down memory lane with clips of guests including Steve Martin, Tom Hanks and Sarah Silverman, and highlights of specials taped outside the United States. Will Ferrell appeared by Zoom from Boston, with Jack Black on hand to salute O'Brien.

Ferrell noted that he's been a guest for the conclusions of O'Brien's previous shows, "Late Night With Conan O'Brien" and "Tonight," both on NBC but with widely varying runs: the former



This May 15, 2019, file photo shows talk show host Conan O'Brien attending the WarnerMedia Upfront at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Associated Press

from 1993 to 2009, the latter for less than eight months in 2009-10. "It's kind of become a tradition," O'Brien said of Ferrell's presence.

"It's become (expletive) exhausting," Ferrell replied. He then proceeded to perform farewells that he suggested O'Brien should bank for probable future need, including for his new HBO Max series.

"People would say six episodes isn't a lot, but you packed enough entertainment in them for eight epi-

sodes," Ferrell said. He then lauded him for a string of projected talk show flops on Al Jazeera and Delta Airlines, and his YouTube "classic unboxing videos." O'Brien, a writer for "The Simpsons" in his salad days, sat for his exit interview with surprise HR rep Homer Simpson, who was unimpressed when reminded that O'Brien was a talk show host.

"Wow, a dying breed," Simpson told the animated version of O'Brien. "There's

only like 800 of you left."

Black limped onto the stage wearing an orthopedic boot, which he and O'Brien explained was because of a badly sprained ankle Black suffered during pre-taping of what was supposed to be a big-finish action and dancing skit.

In its place, Black serenaded O'Brien and his longtime sidekick Andy Richter with revamped lyrics set to the signature Frank Sinatra standard, "My Way."

"Conan, you are my friend.

You are the best, and so is Andy," Black sang, switching up the lyrics to honor "Con's way."

The host, whose gravity-defying, trademark swoop of red hair has remained virtually unchanged through the years, wrapped up the show with heartfelt thanks to his colleagues, family and fans. He also shared a slice of philosophy.

"I have devoted all of my adult life, all of it, to pursuing this strange, phantom intersection between smart and stupid," things he said many people believe can't coexist. But when the two come together, he said, there is a tiny flicker of "what is a kind of magic."

O'Brien, formerly a writer for "Saturday Night Live," was championed by "SNL" creator Lorne Michaels to succeed David Letterman as "Late Night" host. Letterman moved to CBS in "The Late Show" after losing the post-Carson "Tonight" job to Jay Leno, a rivalry that became a media fixation. In an effort to design an orderly transition, NBC executives in 2004 anointed O'Brien to take over for Leno in 2009. After ratings for "Tonight" faltered with O'Brien, Leno ended up reclaiming the show and O'Brien found a new home and, he said, more creative freedom at TBS. □



Ron Isley, left, and Ernie Isley pose for a photo with the street sign dedicated to them during a street renaming ceremony, Thursday, June 24, 2021, in Teaneck, N.J.

Associated Press

By DAVID PORTER

Associated Press

TEANECK, N.J. (AP) —

Through the flag twirlers and the gospel choir and the seemingly endless

proclamations from local officials, Ernie Isley was able to reduce to one word the honor of having streets named after him and his famous family in

Streets renamed for Isley Brothers in 2 New Jersey towns

the suburban towns where they once lived: "Wow." "It's a 'wow' moment," he exclaimed. "This is a spectacular culmination of a lot of dreams and a lot of prayers."

Teaneck and Englewood, suburbs a few miles across the Hudson River from New York City, held dual ceremonies Thursday to honor the Isley Brothers, the legendary group that scored hits with songs including "Shout," "Twist and Shout," "It's Your Thing," "That Lady" and "Fight The Power." Ron Isley lived in Teaneck and Ernie lived in neighboring Englewood

during the group's heyday in the 1960s.

Another brother, Rudolph, lived in Irvington, about 12 miles (19 kilometers) south of Teaneck.

The brothers helped put Teaneck on the map when they launched the T-Neck record label, known to generations of music fans for the distinctive orange dust jacket on its 45 rpm records.

It was a local music fan, Teaneck resident Ira Buckman, who hit upon the idea of renaming part of Van Arsdale Street as Isley Brothers Way two years ago. He was inspired by

watching a rerun of the movie "Animal House," which features the Isley Brothers' "Shout."

The town's council approved it, and after a delay due to the coronavirus pandemic, unveiled the new sign Thursday on Isley Brothers Day in front of a crowd numbering in the hundreds.

"I've lived in Teaneck since 1976 and I thought, 'I've never really done anything to improve the town'" until making the connection that some of the Isley Brothers had lived there, Buckman joked Thursday. □



Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo reacts after making a shot and being fouled during the second half of Game 1 of the NBA Eastern Conference basketball finals game against the Atlanta Hawks Wednesday, June 23, 2021, in Milwaukee.

Associated Press

Refs facing new pressure to keep count on Giannis at FT line

By CHARLES ODUM
AP Sports Writer

Giannis Antetokounmpo's lengthy free-throw routine might be too long to be legal. Officials are under renewed pressure to enforce the 10-second rule, placing the Milwaukee Bucks' two-time MVP further in the spotlight Friday night in Game 2 of the Eastern Conference finals against the Atlanta Hawks.

The NBA said Antetokounmpo should have been called for 10-second violations on both free throws he shot with 5.3 seconds remaining in the Hawks' 116-113 Game 1 win on Wednesday night. Antetokounmpo made both free throws, trimming the Hawks' lead to 114-113.

Antetokounmpo's habit of taking longer than the maximum 10 seconds allowed by NBA rule is not new.

"I think the whole league notices it, to be honest," Hawks rookie center Onyeka Okongwu said Friday. "Everyone knows Giannis gets 10-second violations at the free throw line. ... Everyone knows it's longer than most people's routine is." "That's up to the referees to make the call, definitely," Okongwu said. "We can do what we want but at the end of the day the referee makes the call."

The officials also have noticed, at least occasionally. Antetokounmpo has been called for 10-second vio-

lations twice during the postseason. He was called for his first with just over a minute left in regulation in the Bucks' 109-107 overtime victory over Miami in Game 1 of the first round. The second came during the Bucks' 86-83 Game 3 triumph in their second-round series with Brooklyn. The league's 10-second rule is clear.

According to the NBA's Rule No. 9, Section 1-a, "When a free throw is awarded, an official shall put the ball in play by delivering it to the free throw shooter. The shooter shall be above the free throw line and within the upper half of the free throw circle. He shall attempt the free throw within 10 seconds of controlling the ball in such a way that the ball enters the basket or touches the ring." Antetokounmpo's routine before taking free throws pushes or exceeds the 10-second limit. Some opposing fans have counted past 10 when he stood at the line, the ball still in his hands.

Brooklyn's James Harden appeared to show his displeasure with Antetokounmpo's extended stay at the line on multiple occasions during their seven-game series. Harden was animated as he endured long waits for Antetokounmpo, who sometimes asks a referee to delay giving him the ball so he can practice his form first. □

WIMBLEDON 2021: Quiz, anyone? AP test on grass-court tourney



In this July 3, 2010, file photo, Serena Williams celebrates a point win over Russia's Vera Zvonareva during their women's singles final at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon. How much do you know about Wimbledon?

Associated Press

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer
How much do you know about Wimbledon, the grass-court Grand Slam tennis tournament that begins Monday? Give this AP quiz a try:

1st Round: Wimbledon was canceled in 2020 for the first time since it was wiped out every year from 1940 through 1945 because of World War II. Before that, it was called off from 1915 through 1918 because of World War I. In what other year was the tournament not held since it was first staged in 1877?

- a.) 1909
- b.) 1901
- c.) 1879
- d.) Never

2nd Round: Who was the last player other than Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal or Andy Murray — collectively referred to by some as the Big Four of men's tennis — to win what the All England Club calls The Gentlemen's Singles Trophy?

- a.) Pete Sampras
- b.) Lleyton Hewitt
- c.) Goran Ivanisevic
- d.) Andre Agassi

3rd Round: Starting with the 2000 tournament, how many of the past 40 women's singles finalist slots at Wimbledon — 20 winners, 20 runners-up — have been filled by Serena or Venus Williams?

- a.) 10
- b.) 15
- c.) 20
- d.) 25

4th Round: Roger Federer holds the record for most Grand Slam final appearances by a man with 31, and is followed closely on the all-time list by Novak Djokovic with 29 and Rafael Nadal with 28. Who ranks fourth on that list?

- a.) Rod Laver
- b.) Ivan Lendl
- c.) Roy Emerson
- d.) Pete Sampras

Quarterfinals: When Novak Djokovic came back from two sets down to beat Stefanos Tsitsipas in the French Open final, he became the first man in more than a half-century to win a Grand Slam title after twice winning matches during the tournament despite dropping the initial two sets. Who was the previous man to pull off two such comebacks on the way to a major championship?

- a.) Ted Schroeder
- b.) Henri Cochet
- c.) Yvon Petra
- d.) Robert Wrenn

Final: Since the start of 2015, how many grass-court matches has Serena Williams lost?

- a.) zero
- b.) 2
- c.) 5
- d.) 10

ANSWERS

1st Round. d. The oldest Grand Slam tennis tournament, first held in 1877, had never been canceled for any reason other than a world war until last year's pandemic.

2nd Round. b. Hewitt beat David Nalbandian in the 2002 Wimbledon men's final for his second Grand Slam title. Since then, the 17 men's singles trophies have been divided this way: eight to Federer, five to Djokovic, two to Nadal and two to Murray.

3rd Round. c. One Williams sister or the other has been the Wimbledon women's singles champion or runner-up a total of 20 times over the past 20 years. Serena Williams has won the tournament seven times and been the runner-up another four; Venus Williams has won it five times and been the runner-up another four. They have met each other in four all-Williams finals.

4th Round. b. Lendl reached 19 Grand Slam finals, winning eight championships and finishing as the runner-up a record-tying 11 times (Federer also has lost 11 major finals). Sampras is next on the list with 18.

Quarterfinals. a. Schroeder did it at Wimbledon in 1949, trailing two sets to none in the first round and quarterfinals en route to the championship. That was the only time the American entered Wimbledon. The other three men listed as possible answers all did it earlier: Wrenn at the U.S. Championships in 1896, Cochet at Wimbledon in 1927, Petra at Wimbledon in 1946.

Final. b. Williams is 26-2 in that span on grass, with all of the matches at Wimbledon — and both of the losses in the final. She won the titles in 2015 and 2016, sat out 2017 because she was pregnant, then was the runner-up to Angelique Kerber in 2018 and to Simona Halep in 2019. □

One trophy ignored, Canadiens shift focus to the Stanley Cup

By **JOHN WAWROW** and **STEPHEN WHYNO**
AP Hockey Writers

MONTREAL (AP) — Shea Weber and the Montreal Canadiens kept their hands off the Clarence S. Campbell Bowl after advancing to the Stanley Cup Final, and even rookie Cole Caufield had no interest in touching it.

"Obviously there's a bigger one out there that we're chasing, so I think that's the only thing on our mind right now," Caufield said, following a 3-2 OT semifinal series-clinching win over Vegas in Game 6. "It's good to enjoy it. We've come a long way to get here, but the job is not finished."

Montreal is in the final for the 35th time in the franchise's illustrious history and will face the New York Islanders or Tampa Bay Lightning for a chance to win an NHL-leading 25th championship. Not only do the Canadiens not celebrate second-place finishes, but perhaps it's best Weber avoided the semifinal trophy typically given out to the Western Conference champion because Campbell is not well-liked in Quebec.

Campbell was the league president who suspended Maurice "Rocket" Richard for the remainder of the season and playoffs for hitting a linesman during a game in March 1955, leading to riots in Montreal. The Canadiens had never cap-



Montreal Canadiens pose with the Clarence Campbell trophy after defeating the Vegas Golden Knights to advance to the Stanley Cup finals following overtime in Game 6 of an NHL hockey Stanley Cup semifinal playoff series Thursday, June 24, 2021 in Montreal.

Associated Press

tured the trophy named for Campbell in their history — they've won the Prince of Wales a record 25 times — but in this unusual season with teams playing in reformat- ted visions that was the case Thursday night.

Now the focus turns toward the Cup, and there's no such hatred toward name-sake Lord Stanley.

"We got another series coming up," said Weber, who's playing in his first Cup final at age 35. "We've got to win four more games but definitely proud of everybody in that locker room right now and what we've accomplished so far. But definitely still work to be done."

The Canadiens are on one

of the more surprising runs in postseason history, erasing a 3-1 deficit against Toronto in the first round, sweeping Winnipeg in the second and shutting down heavily favored Vegas in six games in the third. Only minutes after giving up the series-deciding overtime goal to Artturi Lehkonen, Golden Knights netminder Robin Lehner said: Hell of a team. Works really hard. Sticks with their structure and they have a lot of great players. Everyone underestimates them."

Three-time Cup winner Patrick Sharp, now an NBC Sport analyst, expected Montreal to lose every round. Only after watching Canadiens goaltender

Carey Price and his teammates frustrate Vegas did he realize he and so many others were just wrong.

"We should've known better," Sharp said Friday. "It's a team that's got some belief, no question about that, and those teams are often the most dangerous this time of year."

The lineup is also a perfect mix of veterans like Price, Weber, Corey Perry and Eric Staal who have been in plenty of playoff games before and young players like Caufield, Jesperi Kotkaniemi and Nick Suzuki.

The 20-year-old Caufield was playing college hockey as recently as March, and Suzuki just beat the Vegas organization that draft-

ed and then traded him in a deal for former Montreal captain Max Pacioretty.

Price is the backbone, having stopped 495 of 530 shots to go into the final as a front-runner for the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP. Like Weber, it will be his first final.

Credit also has to go to coaching, with Montreal heading into the final with assistant Luke Richardson as the third person behind the bench in the past four months. Interim coach Dominique Ducharme took over when Claude Julien was fired in February, and Richardson is filling in after Ducharme tested positive for the coronavirus last week.

The Canadiens made sure Ducharme was on video from afar when they returned to their locker room Thursday night to share in the joy. Now that they've guaranteed at least four more games and their jubilant city is poised to celebrate, Ducharme could potentially return midway through the final.

With Ducharme on their minds, players quickly shifted from enjoying another series victory to thinking about trying to get another.

"They're not done yet," Richardson said. "They saw a fire in their eyes. They're already talking about it. ... Get right back at it. And we're looking forward to the challenge." □



Legendary boxer Evander Holyfield stands next to a bronze statue of himself that was unveiled outside the State Farm Arena, Friday, June 25, 2021, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

Statue of Evander Holyfield unveiled in Atlanta

By **MATT WINKELJOHN**
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Soon after Friday's unveiling of an Evander Holyfield statue outside State Farm Arena, the boxing champion was standing near where he grew up west of Atlanta. The "Real Deal" was asked if he'd like another fight with Mike Tyson, whom he beat twice in a hall of fame career.

Memorably, his flustered opponent bit off a piece of Holyfield's right ear June 28, 1997.

Tyson recently fought an

exhibition vs. Roy Jones Jr., and Holyfield, 58, didn't dismiss the idea.

"We'll see what happens, but I'm good," he said. "I have done everything I wanted to do. I had a great career. ... I'm the only guy who's been the heavyweight champion four times, I've been champion in two weight divisions, I made the Olympic team."

The statue stood in storage for approximately two years.

Sculptor Brian Hanlon — who also did the statue

of Hawks star Dominique Wilkins on the arena's south plaza — was commissioned in 2017 and in 2019 finished the 10-foot, 2,500-lb., bronze commemorative and two-ton granite base.

Yet Fulton County Commission chairman Robb Pitts had nowhere for it.

"It didn't take the sculptor but about six months, but since that time it's been looking for a home," Pitts said. "In a lot of cases ... there was opposition from citizens who felt that tourists would be coming at

all times of day (and) the commotion would disrupt their quality of life."

Earlier this year, State Farm Arena and Atlanta Hawks CEO Steve Koonin offered a spot.

State Farm is on the site of the former Omni, where Holyfield first became a world champion with a 15-round split-decision victory over Dwight Muhammad Qawi on July 12, 1986, for the WBA cruiser-weight title. He fought in the Omni three times, and once in the former Georgia Dome. □